

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6, 10-23 and 25-48 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3-5, 7-9 and 24 are canceled, claims 1, 16 and 25 are amended and claims 26-48 are added.

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 4, 5, 7-9 and 17-19 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 4. Thus, claims 1, 2 and 5-15 are in condition for allowance. New claim 26 corresponds to original claim 1 and original claim 5. Thus, claims 26-34 are in condition for allowance.

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claims 1-15 due to informalities. Claim 1 is amended to obviate this objection.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6, 10-13, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,383,733 to Zinsmeyer et al., claims 1, 3 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,371,670 to Kojo and claims 2, 14 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Zinsmeyer in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,623,592 to Purcell. With respect to claims 1 through 15, these rejections are moot. With respect to the remaining claims, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to amended independent claims 16 and 25 and new claim 35, Zinsmeyer does not disclose a thermal printhead disposed on the first guide member as recited in amended independent claims 16, 25 and 35. Instead, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5 of Zinsmeyer, the printhead 24 is separate from the first guide member 31.

Furthermore, Applicants note that Zinsmeyer discloses an ink ribbon cassette rather than a tape cassette as recited in the independent claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees

with the Office Action's assertion that Kojo discloses a first guide member inserted into a first guide hole tape cassette. Instead, Kojo discloses a tape sensor 11 that identifies a kind of tape by the cutout 28. See e.g., Kojo, at col. 5, line 19 - col. 6, line 27. Furthermore, tape sensor 11 is not able to guide the cassette tape. As shown in Fig. 4 of Kojo, the clearance gap between the tape sensor 11 and the cutout 28 is too large to allow the tape sensor to guide the tape cassette.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion that Kojo teaches a cutting apparatus including an anvil. Instead, the tape cutting apparatus 13 shown in Fig. 5 of Kojo is a scissors including a stationary blade 14 and a normal blade 15. See e.g., col. 6, lines 60-61 of Kojo.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Amendment Transmittal

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